

✓ **In the Claims:**

Claims 1-28 (cancelled);

Claim 29 (new);

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Cont.
A method of diagnosing a vehicle having an onboard computer for generating a diagnostic trouble code signal, the diagnostic trouble code signal being related to a passed or problem status of the vehicle, the method comprising:

- (a) connecting a handheld code reader to the onboard computer;
- (b) downloading diagnostic trouble code signals from the onboard computer to the code reader;
- (c) disconnecting the code reader from the onboard computer;
- (d) generating a visual output signal in the handheld code reader, the visual output signal being representative of the status of the vehicle as determined from the diagnostic trouble code signals by the code reader, independent of resources external to the handheld code reader.

Claim 30 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 29 further comprising the steps of uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a computer configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

Claim 31 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 30 further comprising the steps of downloading the problem description data from the computer.

Claim 32 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 31 wherein the step of uploading the trouble code signals comprises uploading from the code reader to a personal computer, and uploading from the personal computer to a remote computer, the remote computer being configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

Claim 33 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 31 wherein the steps of downloading the problem description data comprises downloading from a remote computer to a personal computer, problem description data correlating the diagnostic trouble code signals to a problem status of the vehicle.

Claim 34 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein the step of generating a visual output signal in the code reader comprises selectively illuminating one of a plurality of visual indicia, each visual indicia being representative of a different status of the vehicle.

Claim 35 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 34 wherein the visual indicia is illuminated independent of user interaction with the code reader.

Claim 36 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 35 wherein the step of generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceeds independent of any vehicle specific identification by a user.

Claim 37 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 36 wherein the step of generating a visual output
signal in the code reader proceeds independent of any user selection of code reader
controls.
